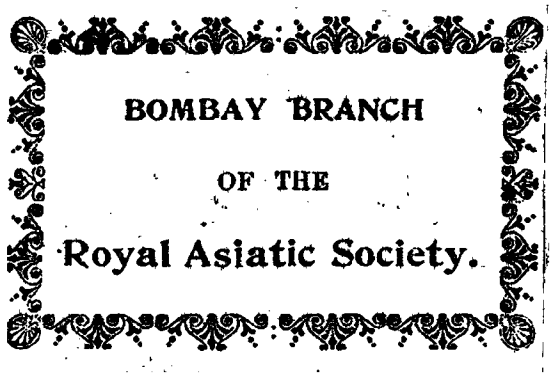
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT,

For 1975.

R. P. Press, Jammu—10 4-79—250.



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on 24 February, 2020

Copy of a letter No. 8797 dated 20th September 1919 from the Chief Minister, Jammu and Kashmir State, to the Home Minister Jammu and Kashmir State.

When reference to your letter No. 2434, dated 28th August 1919 regarding Annual Progress Report of the Archæological Department for Sambat 1975, I am to inform that the report was duly laid before His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur, who has sanctioned its publication as usual.

The Photos are returned herewith but the copy of the report is retained for incorporation in the General Administration Report of the year to which it relates.

Copy of the Home Minister's endorsment No. 3237—G dated 11th October 1919 on the above.

Copy together with Photos in original forwarded to the Superintendent of Archæological Department, Srinagar, for information and necessary action, with reference to his letter No. 966, dated 12/24th August 1919.

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For 1975.

In the year 1975 of the Vikrama era I was in camp for 105 days which were spent in inspection of monuments and supervision of conservation and exploration work. The time spent at head-quarters was devoted to the preparation of the guide to the monuments of Kashmir, the study of various coins and the arrangement of exhibits in the Sri Pratap Singh Museum in connection with the exhibition of arts and industries of Kashmir which was held at the time of the Viceregal visit to the State. Besides this, I attended to the office routine and collected materials for writing a memoir for the Director General of Archæology in India.

2.—Establishment.

The permanent overseer was in camp for some 90 days which he spent in supervision of works. He was on privilege leave for 24 days. The temporary overseer worked till 15th of Magh 1975 when his services were dispensed with being no longer required. He supervised the excavation of Indar spring and minor repairs and assisted in the preparation of estimates. The photographer took 42 photographs of different monuments. The Head clerk was sent on deputation to the office of the Education Minister for one year from 23rd Bhadon 1975. Pandit Jagan Nath who was working in the said office has been taken in his place and I am glad to remark that ever since he was appointed he has been working satisfactorily. The other change which took place in the personnel of my office was the appointment of B. Panna Lall who was taken as record-keeper and typist in place of B. Ram Lal. I may record here my appreciation of the good work done by my staff throughout the year.

3.—Accommodation of office.

For want of a permanent house I have to shift my office almost on every annual move to Jammu as well as to Srinagar. This causes much waste of time as well as of money and inconvenience. The attention of the authorities is invited to this long-felt desideratum with the hope that it will soon be removed and a permanent house given to accomodate this office.

4.—Library.

The reference library attached to the office was enriched by the addition of 21. volumes, of which 8 were purchased out of the Budgeted grant, and the rest were obtained as present by the Government of India through the Director General of Archæology in India.

5.—Conservation of monuments.

In the year under report endeavour has been made to finish the work of conservation in accordance with the suggestions of Sir John Marshall, the Director General of Archæology in India at three monuments, namely, the Avanti-Svámi temple at Avantipura, the Sugandhesa temple of Sankarapura-Pattana or Pattan and the old ruinous shrine near Mahora. The work has practically finished at the first two monuments, where poplars have been planted in two rows, some two feet apart all round, to form a fence and improve the appearance of the sites. Round the Avantipur temple clusters of *chinars* have also been laid out. Though here it is highly desirable that all the

slopes and the enclosed plots round the temple are properly turfed, yet on account of the paucity of funds further sodding is left to nature. At Pattan, I am glad, nature has assisted us considerably; for the grass has grown where it was needed, and the whole enclosure looks green and splendid. The surrounding of the temple at Avantipur looks barren and dusty and is not expected to improve unless irrigation is arranged for. I have sunk one well to the south of the temple, but this can hardly help us in watering the other sides. Opposite the north-east corner of the temple, a retaining wall was partly constructed, and I hope it will be completed early next year. It is meant to protect that side for earth is very loose there and the side is open to damage by water flowing down the village during the rains. The other circumstance which necessitated the construction of this wall was that the piece of land belonging to the temple at the corner is so narrow that no proper slope could be cut there nor could the poplars be planted in line with those on the remaining sides.

Land round the Pattan temple is turfed so as to mark out the courtyard, the porch and the peristyle and a miniature shrine to the left of the main temple, the whole plan having been shown on a black-board fixed at the wicket gate which now forms the only entrance to the monument. On the plan I have shown the depth of silt deposit and the original pavement of the courtyard so as to enable a geographer to draw his conclusions with regard to the geography of the place.

At the third temple known by the name of Dhatthamandir, which lies near Mahora halfway between Rampur and Uri, the conservation work, noted down in my last year's report, was continued, but owing to the dearth of labour much could not be achieved. Because of the scarcity of labour the contractor, who had to do some urgent works connected with the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy, had thought of finishing the work I had entrusted to him by the end of autumn, but owing to the outbreak of influenza of a virulent type he became helpless and was compelled to put it off for the next year. He, however, could do some clearance work and complete a portion of the culvert cut towards the north-east corner of the temple.

At the Moghal gardens, the work of conservation done during the year consisted of petty and patch repairs of the compound wall of the Nishat Bagh which cost Rs. 755-9-2. The Durbar approved of the proposals regarding the improvements of the Verinag, the Shalabagh, the Nishatbagh and the Chashma-i-Shahi garden, and sanctioned the estimates of the costs amounting to Rs. 5,000, 6,487, 7,091 and Rs. 2,671, respectively. These proposals will be carried into effect when funds will be made available. At the time of the Viceregal visit in the autumn of the year under review certain improvements were made at the Achhabal, the Nishat and the Shalabagh gardens through the Public Works Department.

6.—Exploration and Research.

The work of Archæological exploration was carried at two places, namely at Fatehgarh, which is some 6 miles to the west of Baramulla and at Indar which lies about 18 miles to the south-east of Srinagar. At Fatehgarh some portion of the dome-like spire of an old shrine was visible, the rest being buried beneath the heap of tumulus. Major Cole saw and photographed it in the year 1868 and recommended exploration of the site. It is to be regretted that the villagers have built their houses too close to it and are rather dwelling on the very remains of the monument. This fact makes the examination of the whole site very difficult if not impossible. However, I resolved to see whatever I could, and to examine the nature of the antiquities buried I started a trial excavation on a small scale on the north and west sides. I dug to a depth of about 13 feet where I reached the floor level. Digging on the west side exposed the main entrance of the temple. This led to the cella which, when cleared, showed a colossal *linga* lying obliquely. Evidently, therefore, this temple was Saiva or dedicated to Siva, and this is quite in keeping with other remains to be seen in the vicinity. Some crude sculptures were also found here. How ruthless the destroyer's hand was and what pains were taken in knocking down the heavy stones with which the temple was constructed the digging has clearly shown. The structure was evidently burnt down.

The entrance to the cella with six steps and considerable portion of the western as well as northern sides have been opened. The plan of this sanctuary so far revealed seems to be slightly different from that of most of the Kashmiri temples, for it has single plinth and a single flight of steps whereas others have double ones. The structure as far as it has been opened has not got any carving like that we see at Avantisvami temple or the Martand temple compared to which it is rather a plain building.

To continue exploration of this site it is absolutely necessary to take possession of some of the adjacent fields for throwing *debris*, and a proposal has been sent up to the Darbar to acquire them. After they are acquired the excavation can be continued.

Indar Spring.

Another site where some spade work was done this year is that of Indar which, according to the tradition current among the inhabitants of the locality, contains the remains of a large spring known to be the king of the Nagas or springs of the valley. The local tradition says that the spring was desecrated and covered up by means of *chinar* planks and then buried during the Afghan rule. The inhabitants of the place had applied for the excavation of the spring and I had to report on the matter. This necessitated exploration of the site.

Kalhana does not appear to have mentioned this *Naga* in his chronicle, but I find it noticed in the Mahatmya of the name of *Svayambhava Samhita* which mentions a few sacred spots or *tirthas* of the locality whose identity is certain. To examine the site I cut trial trenches carrying digging to a depth of about ten feet. Here too the outbreak of the epidemic, mentioned above, hampered my work which had to be postponed for the next year. The images found so far though mostly broken show that the spot was sacred to the Hindus and must have been desecrated. That it had houses around it is evidenced by mill-stones, house-hold pottery and a pot full of *cowri* shells found there. So far only one entire image has been excavated and that possibly represents a *Kausiki* holding snakes and riding Garuda, though the stone bearing it is broken. It is hoped that when digging is carried sufficiently deep, the nature of the remains will be fully understood.

At Harvan, the ancient *Shadarhadvana* or the forest of six saints a site was spotted which must have been important and whose exploration would yield good results. It was cursorily examined and a few very interesting bricks and tiles found. These are stamped with the image of an old hermit, who was possibly one of the six *Arhats* after whom the locality was designated originally, and they have been deposited in the State Museum at Srinagar.

Another site which must have possessed considerable importance in earlier days and which requires exploration was also inspected perhaps for the first time. It lies on the left bank of the Jhelum by the old route some 4 miles from Baramulla. It is some six miles by the Jhelum Valley Road lying opposite to Ghantmul and is known by the name of Jaimpur, which is believed to be an *apabhramsa of Jamadagnipura* or the town of Jamadagni, the father of Parasurama, the destroyer of the Kshatriyas. Tradition connects it with the well-known legend regarding the carrying away of *Kamadhenu*, whose foot-print is still pointed out on a rock near the site. Besides the innumerable stones bearing the effigies of sorts which stand scattered over it, the site has three pretty large mounds which possibly contain the remains of some stupas.

The other site requiring mention here, is that known by the name of Banibanah which I inspected while taking a tour in the province of Jammu. It lies about sixteen miles to the east of Kotli towards Rajouri and is marked by the basement of a temple and foundations of long walls lying in the fields. Several *Kushan* coins have been found there, and I hope its exploration will yield interesting results.

I also examined the palace of Basohli and the temple of Ballour with a view to decide the question of their conservation which has been pending since a long time in this office. Basohli palace has no architectural value as far as I can judge and is past repairs. Owing to the historical interest it possesses, I am of opinion that it should be saved from further decay and declared protected so that no wilful damage is done to it. No attempt should be made to restore it. Some of its portions which are in dangerous condition should be dismantled for the sake of public safety. The *debris* should be disposed of and removed, the tops of the walls and roofs made water-tight. It will be advantageous if a chowkidar is appointed to look after the palace and stop treasure-seekers and other people from doing further damage to it.

The temple at Ballour is the only extent building of its kind of the Ballouriya dynasty (Sans. *Vallapura*) and possesses considerable historical interest. As it is in a very bad state of preservation, some of its parts being in a dangerous condition, very early steps should be taken to conserve it. I sent up my proposals about its conservation as well as an estimate of costs. They have been approved of by the Durbar, and it is hoped that necessary measures in the matter will be taken next year.

Ramgarh fort is another monument the question of whose conservation remained pending for several years and was settled this year. The fort is situated about 24 miles towards the south of Jammu and is the birth-place of the late Maharaja Gulab Singh Sahib Bahadur. It has reached an advanced state of decay, the gate alone being in a more or less good state of preservation. Because of its historical importance, the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur has been pleased to sanction that the whole of it should be thoroughly repaired and conserved, and I hope I shall be able to take necessary steps in the matter next year.

7. *Museum.*—During the year under review several interesting additions have been made to the Sri Pratap Singh Museum which is also in my charge. Many of its exhibits have been re-arranged and labelled. His Excellency the Viceroy paid a visit to this institution in the month of October 1918, and by the time of his visit all the exhibits were thoroughly cleaned, and properly arranged to suit the requirements of the occasion. I also arranged for an exhibition of local Arts and industries in the Museum at the time of the said visit. Most of the well-known firms brought in their articles and exhibited them in the stalls erected in the Museum compound for the purpose. In one of the rooms of the Museum building I arranged for a loan exhibition of paintings, illustrated manuscripts, geological specimens and medicinal plants found in the State. Full account of my work in the Museum will be given in the Annual Report of the institution. Here I may mention in passing a few of the paintings which I secured for it this year. Some of them represent the former rulers of the State. Others which came from Basohli appear to be of a new type and would go to indicate that the painters who drew them out were more or less independent of the so-called Kangra school. The latter are either the representation of the various forms of *Bhadarkali* or *Bhairava*, or form the illustrations of a Sanskrit composition, named the *Chittarasamanjari* which was perhaps hither to unknown to Sanskritists. They belong to the reign of Raja Kirpal Pal of Basohli who flourished about the end of the 17th century, and seem to be now scattered being in possession of several dealers. I got these from two of them. Each painting bears a verse, written at the back, which describes the subject and is numbered. The subject matter is desultory but *Sringara i. e.* love, and *bhava, i. e.* religious devotion, form the prevailing sentiments.

(Sd.) HIRANANDA SHASTRI,

SUPERINTENDENT OF ARCHÆOLOGY,

Jammu and Kashmir State.

Statement showing expenditure incurred on works during 1975.

Serial No.	Name of Monument	Amount spent. Rs.	a.	p.
1	Avantipur temple ...	1,979	12	7
2	Dhathamandir ...	1,531	14	6
3	Martand temple ...	35	5	0
4	Pattan temple A. ...	158	3	1
5	Pattan temple B. ...	9	2	7
6	Pattan Spring ...	47	0	0
7	Shankaracharya temple ...	463	13	1
8	Excavation of Fatehgarh temple ...	547	8	2
9	Excavation of Inder Spring ...	256	13	0
10	Pandrethan temple ...	166	5	3
11	Nishat Bagh ...	755	9	2
12	Shalamar garden ...	318	4	1
13	Petty works ...	777	8	8
	Total ...	7,047	3	2

List of Photographs taken during 1975.

A. No.	Serial No.	Locality.	Subject.	Size.
1	551	Shankarpal near Harvan.	Rock said to bear an inscription at its bottom.	1/1
2	552	Purzhama near Harvan.	Monoliths and old site marked by them.	1/1
3	553	Do.	Do.	1/1
4	554	Harichandraj near Harvan.	Carved bricks and tiles.	1/1
5	555	Do.	Do.	1/1
6	556	Do.	Do.	1/1
7	557	Jama Masjid Srinagar.	Base of a column.	1/1
8	558	Do.	Architectural stones.	1/1
9	559	Do.	Base of an image.	1/1
10	560	Dhattamandir near Mohora.	Retaining wall.	1/1
11	561	Do.	Do.	1/1
12	562	Do.	Do.	1/1
13	563	Pattan Dak Bungalow.	Temple in spring after conservation.	1/1
14	564	Do.	Do	1/1
15	565	Do.	Do.	1/1
16	566	Churgali near Hapatnar Tahsil Anantnag.	Ruinous fort.	1/1
17	567	Do.	Do.	1/1
18	568	Harichandraj near Harvan.	Carved bricks.	1/1
19	569	Iudar near Pinglama, Tahsil Pulwama.	Ancient mound before excavation.	1/1
20	570	Do.	Do.	1/1
21	571	Fatehgarh near Baramulla.	Temple and ancient site before excavation.	1/1
22	572	Do.	E.	1/1
23	573	Do.	S.	1/1
24	574	Do.	W.	1/1

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List of Photographs in Sambat year 1975.—concluded.

A. No.	Serial No.	Locality.	Subject.	Size.
25	575	Indar near Pinglawa Tahsil Pulwama.	Sculptures excavated.	1/1
26	576	Fatehgarh near Baramulla.	West side after excavation.	1/1
27	577	do.	Colossal *linga* excavated.	1/1
28	578	do.	Excavated doorway of temple.	1/1
29	579	Jammu	Gandhara Sculptures (Buddha in private possession of one Rughnath Das.	1/1
30	580	do.	do.	1/1
31	581	do.	do.	1/1
32	582	Kirmchi near Udhampur.	View of temples south.	1/1
33	583	do.	do.	1/1
34	584	do.	do.	1/1
35	585	Bani-Banah between Kotli and Rajouri.	Ancient site.	1/1
36	586	do.	Pediment of temple.	1/1
37	587	do.	Basement of a temple marking the site.	1/1
38	588	Sohana near Rajouri.	Ancient temple, East.	1/1
39	589	Chingas near Rajouri.	Tomb said to be of Jahangir.	1/1
40	590	Thanna near Rajouri.	Moghal Serai.	1/1
41	591	Ballour in Jammu Province.	Marble image of Ganesh.	1/1
42	592	do.	Siva temple	1/1

List of drawings made in 1975.

Serial No.	Annual No.	Heading of Drawings.	Scale.
1	13	Proposed retaining wall at Dhattamandir	4' to 1"
2	14	Proposed gate at Dhattamandir.	1' to 1"
3	15	Fatehgarh temple, site.plan showing position of land to be acquired.	40 karm to 1 inch